



File Code: 2230; 2210
Date: May 17, 2016

Gary and Jackie Ingram
HC 68 Box 320
Clayton, ID 83227

Dear Gary and Jackie,

This letter serves as your 2016 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Herd Creek and Pine Creek Cattle and Horse (C&H) Allotments and is the part of your term grazing permit #30064 identified as Forest Officer instructions in Part 1, Clause 3 and Part 2, Clause 8.

You received a Notice of Non-Compliance letter on January 28, 2016, for having cattle in places at the wrong time on the Herd Creek Allotment. In order to remedy this non-compliance:

- Follow the grazing rotation as identified in this AOI.
- Keep your cattle only where authorized.

Situations may develop during the grazing season which require changes to these instructions, such as delayed range readiness, early achievement of allowable use standards, unit rotation changes related to wildfire or other problems, or other management needs. **If changing unit move dates becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with any part of these instructions, contact your rangeland management specialist, Brianna Goehring, to obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions. Any extension of dates outside the permitted season of use cannot be authorized.**

Term Permitted Use

Allotment	No. and Class	Season of Use	Head Months
Herd Creek	636 Cow/calf	6/16 – 10/31	Not to exceed 1732
Pine Creek	32 Cow/calf	7/1-9/30	97

*Not to exceed 1732 Head Months

2016 Authorized Use

Allotment	No. and Class	Season of Use	Head Months
Herd Creek	215 Cow/calf	6/16 – 9/30	975
Pine Creek	Rest		

2016 Unit Schedule

The dates in the table below are approximate and depend on meeting allowable use standards. Livestock would enter the Lake Basin Unit by upland trail through the Herd Lake Unit from an adjacent BLM allotment. The duration of this move may be up to five days. **Livestock must be off the Lake Basin Unit after August 15, 2016, to protect spawning bull trout and their redds.** Initiate livestock movement so that all livestock are completely off the Forest no later than September 30, 2016.



Unit	No. and Class	On-Date	Off-Date
Lake Basin	215 Cow/calf	6/16	8/15
Herd Lake	215 Cow/calf	8/16	9/30
Taylor-McDonald	Rest		
Fox Creek	Rest		

Allowable Use

It is your responsibility to be aware of, and to recognize utilization and streambank alteration use standards. Regardless of the Unit Schedule shown above, you must move your livestock to the next unit planned or off the allotment prior to exceeding these standards. Part 3 of your term grazing permit identifies these allowable use standards; see the table below for the standards applicable to this year. Once livestock are removed from a unit in accordance with allowable standards and/or unit scheduling, they are not allowed to return. Use of riparian areas needs to be carefully monitored by you to know when it is time to move livestock to the next unit and to avoid exceeding standards. Do not rely on Forest Service range personnel to notify you when it is time to move.

Allowable Use Standards

Unit	Average Greenline Stubble Height (<i>Carex</i> spp.)	Streambank Alteration	Woody Browse (willow, alder, aspen)	Upland Utilization
Taylor/McDonald (M140)	Rest			
Lake Basin (M137)	≥ 6 inches	≤ 10%	≤ 30 ^A or 50 % ^B	≤ 50%
Herd Lake (M136)	N/A ¹		≤ 30 ^A or 50 % ^B	≤ 50%

¹ There are no perennial streams in this unit on the Herd Creek Allotment.

^A Single-stemmed species

^B Multi-stemmed species.

Biological Assessment/Opinion Requirements

The 2011 Aquatic Species Biological Assessment (B.A.) for the Herd Creek C&H Allotment identified that all cattle would be off National Forest lands by September 30 of each year. It further outlined the conservation measures to be implemented to avoid and reduce potential impacts to ESA listed fish and designated critical habitat; I reiterate several pertinent ones below:

- A three-unit deferred rotation and rest rotation grazing system will be used. The schedule for 2016 is identified as Year 3 in the B.A.
- Salting will occur at least ¼ mile from streams.

Specifically to minimize the potential for incidental take resulting from adverse effects of grazing on riparian and aquatic habitat, the National Marine Fisheries Services further identified the following terms and conditions in its 2012 Biological Opinion for the Herd Creek Allotment:

- Frequent riding is implemented within the allotment to inspect and repair fencelines intended to keep livestock within intended unit boundaries. All exclosures, drift fences, and water developments that reduce cattle use adjacent to streams with ESA-listed fish species are properly maintained and functioning as intended.

Range Improvements

All range improvements listed as your responsibility in Part 3 of your term grazing permit must be maintained to the standards identified in Part 3 prior to livestock being placed in each unit. No ground disturbing activities or new construction should be conducted on the Forest by you or any of your personnel, without prior approval from me. Materials for reconstruction may be provided by the Forest Service as funding allows. Provision for materials for normal annual maintenance is your responsibility.

Permittee's Management Responsibilities

1. Turnout of livestock prior to confirmation of payment is a violation of Part 2, Clause 3 of your term grazing permit. The grazing fee for 2016 is \$2.11 per head month. Payment of your grazing Bill for Collection (enclosed) is due ten days prior to your earliest turnout date, to allow time for processing. You may make payment in one of three ways:

Mail your payment to:

USDA Forest Service
C/O Citibank
P.O. Box 301550
Los Angeles, CA 90030-1550

You must include the Bill Number and Payer Code number on your check.

Or, pay your bill online at: WWW.FS.FED.US/BILLPAY. Save your receipt of payment.

Or, pay your bill between the hours of 8:00 am and 4:30 pm at any Ranger District office or the Public Lands Center located in Salmon. Please bring a copy of your bill with you.

2. Consistent with the Noxious Weed Free Hay Order, any hay or straw that is brought onto National Forest System lands needs to be State-certified weed free. I am requesting that you be a pro-active partner in the prevention of noxious weeds on your allotment. All equipment which is used off of open roads for range improvement maintenance or other management activities should be free of noxious weeds and their seeds prior to coming onto National Forest System lands.
3. Return your completed actual use form (enclosed) to your rangeland management specialist by December 1, 2016. Please note on the second page our request for your priority **reconstruction** needs. We will use this record to help allocate range betterment funds, which are used to purchase materials for new improvement projects and improvement reconstruction. Actual use is requested annually by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marines Fisheries Service, so your diligence in accurately completing the form is appreciated.
4. If the ownership of the livestock or the base property listed on your permit is about to change, please notify your rangeland management specialist promptly.
5. Dead livestock must be moved at least 100 yards from water, roads, and trails.
6. Place salt at least ¼ mile from any water source and in areas that encourage an even distribution of utilization on the range.
7. With multiple-uses on the Forest, gates are often left open and livestock stray into the wrong unit. We realize this is a problem and an inconvenience. However, it is still your responsibility to keep your animals in the proper unit. Livestock found in the wrong units or allotments should be

returned immediately to the correct unit. Routine checks need to be made by you and/or your rider.

8. Compliance with all terms of your grazing permit is required. These annual operating instructions are not meant to be stand-alone or all inclusive.

Other Considerations

Please immediately report wildfire to the Central Idaho Interagency Dispatch Center at (208) 756-5157.

We may conduct range inspections during the grazing season to check maintenance of range improvements, allowable use standards, and compliance with this year's grazing rotation. You are welcome to participate in these inspections; please contact your rangeland management specialist if you would like to join Forest range staff when monitoring is conducted on your allotment.

Please share your knowledge of known noxious weed infestations with your rangeland management specialist.

Meadow potential and sage grouse habitat assessments may be conducted on your allotments in 2016. These assessments will identify site potential, verify habitat, and evaluate current conditions relative to implementing the 2015 Greater Sage-grouse Record of Decision. We will be contacting you to invite you to participate in these field assessments.

If you have any questions regarding these annual operating instructions, please contact Brianna Goehring, Range Management Specialist, at (208) 879-4130. We look forward to working with you this grazing season.

Sincerely,

Katherine L. Wood
KATHERINE L. WOOD
District Ranger

Enclosures: 2016 Bill for Collection
Actual Use Report